

5 A METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR AN INSTANT MESSENGER HOME
 AUTOMATION SYSTEM INTERFACE USING A HOME ROUTER

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

10 A method for interfacing with a home automation system using a router.
The router receives control signals from an instant messenger application via
a communications network. The communications network can be the
Internet. The router then transmits the control signal to at least one
appliance to control the appliance in accordance with the control signal. A
15 reply to the control signal can be received from the appliance and the reply can
be transmitted to the instant messenger application regarding a status of the
appliance. The control signals can be transmitted among the appliances in
accordance with a standardized home automation interface. The router can be
configured to interface with a plurality of appliances via a home automation
20 system interface unit. The router can also be configured to log onto an instant
messenger server and function as an instant messenger client to receive
control signals from a user.